



PLACER COUNTY
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EDWARD N. BONNER
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UNDERSHERIFF

PRESS RELEASE

Date/Time of Release: Friday, January 26, 2007 3 p.m.
Date/Time of Occurrence: Friday, January 26, 2007 2 p.m.
Nature of Event: Major Identity Theft Suspect Arrested
Location of Call: Gerber Road, Sacramento
Released by: Dena Erwin, PIO (530) 889-6922

SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:

The Placer County Sheriff's Department and the U.S. Secret Service arrested a major identity theft suspect Friday, a man believed to be the principle source of stolen identity information given to seven defendants in the September Wal Mart fraud case.

As detectives and agents served the \$1 million arrest warrant at the south Sacramento home of Tien Trong Nguyen, he was printing out hundreds of counterfeit credit and gift cards.

According to sheriff's Detective Jim Hudson, Nguyen, 29, supplied Stefani Ruland and six others with stolen personal information, which they used to fraudulently obtain Wal Mart credit cards. They then purchased more than \$400,000 in merchandise and gift cards from Wal Mart stores from Dixon to Redding.

Nguyen obtained victims' personal information through "phishing," a criminal activity that sends fraudulent "pop up" internet messages to acquire sensitive information such as passwords and credit card details.

"This is a fine example of agency cooperation between the federal government and local agencies to deal with this serious problem of identity theft called "phishing," said Sheriff Ed Bonner. "Clearly, this suspect adversely affected thousands of people's credit nationwide."

Nguyen, who is also a resident of Southern California, had seven computers running in his home. An unidentified woman who was in the home during the arrest was also taken into custody. The Sacramento County Sheriff's Department assisted Placer County in the arrest.

Nguyen is being held at the Sacramento County Jail on \$1 million bail.

Due to the ongoing investigation and the extensive amount of evidence to be processed, a press conference will be held Monday afternoon, January 29, at the Placer County Sheriff's Department.

This press release is available on the Placer County Sheriff's website at [Http://www.placer.ca.gov/sheriff](http://www.placer.ca.gov/sheriff)